

REMARKS

Claims 21-24 remain pending in this application and are presented for reconsideration. Claim 21 is amended without any intent of disclaiming equivalents thereof.

Support for amendments to claim 21 can be found throughout the Specification, for example, at paragraph 12 on page 4. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being vague and indefinite. Specifically, the Office action questions whether certain steps are inferentially claimed. The Office action also points out that the recitation of “the average surface roughness” in line 7 of claim 21 lacks antecedent basis.

Applicants have amended claim 21 to address each ground of rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections over claim 21 have been overcome through the amendments, and respectfully request their withdrawal of all the rejections.

CONCLUSION

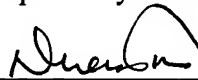
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 21-24 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and Response, reconsideration, and early favorable action by the Examiner.

The Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Date: January 3, 2005
Reg. No. (Limited Recognition)
(attached)

Tel. No.: (617) 248-7808
Fax No.: (617) 248-7100

Respectfully submitted,



Duan Wu
Attorney for Applicants
Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibeault, LLP
High Street Tower
125 High Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110